



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Parish Visitor



418 East Sumner Street
Northfield, MN 55057

507.645.8252

Church office hours:
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

Worship

Sundays 9 a.m.
Coffee + Social 10 a.m.
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Education

Sunday School
10:10 a.m.

Wednesday Confirmation
6:30 p.m.

Staff

David Weeks, Pastor, ext 203
cell: 952.322.0064
pastordavidweeks@northfieldstp.org

Cariann Strauch
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cariannstrauch@northfieldstp.org

Mary Kay Bougie
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Terrence Hassanally
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Allie Machacek
Communications Coordinator + Admin Asst.
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Dear Friends in Christ:

Waiting is unavoidable in our everyday lives. We sometimes talk about waiting patiently, but waiting patiently often feels like an oxymoron.

You interview for a new job, then you wait to hear if you get a job offer. Your doctor orders lab tests, and then you wait a day or two for the results. You pray to God for insight and guidance about God's will for your life, and you wait for direction.

Advent is a season of waiting. Advent waiting is a patient waiting. Advent is a much needed gift to slow down, turn off the noise, put down your phone and "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). "Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7).

Though there is certainly an overlap between Christmas celebrated in the Church and Christmas celebrated in our culture, they are different.

Like it or not, our cultural Christmas is defined by much shopping, which include waiting in line to make your purchase, or waiting for your UPS delivery. Our cultural waiting often increases our anxiety and/or frustration.

We are about to embark on the busiest month of the year. Shopping. Baking. Parties. Concerts. We want to take it all in, but it leaves us exhausted.

So, add intentional waiting to your schedule. I invite and encourage you to slow down and wait. You may have an app on your phone or watch for meditation. Take a seat in your favorite chair. Dim the lights. Light a candle. Read the Bible or a devotional. Set a timer for 5 or 10 minutes. Sit and breathe.

Pray that Emmanuel (God with us) does indeed come to you. Know that Emmanuel is Emmanuel. May Jesus be born in your life, bringing you peace and joy.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor David Weeks

Music Notes

By Mary Kay Bougie, Director of Music



Lessons and Carols 2023



I invite you to read a preview of our Lessons and Carols program for this year.
Consider this a “synopsis” that you often find in a playbill!

What can you expect when you arrive for worship on December 10th, the second Sunday of Advent? Why, the story of Jesus’ birth told visually through candles. Please take note at the worship service the colors of the candles, the candle holders, and the cloth under each of the candles: which are all a visual to the status and surroundings of the people in the story of Jesus’ birth. You will also, of course, hear the scriptures, worship choir, Jubilee Bells, and Richard on the organ! The candle lighting will be provided by two of our young families here at St. Peter’s!

The first reading is from the Old Testament on the peaceful Kingdom, “The wolf shall live with the lamb...”. The Jubilee Bells then ring the anthem, “On That Holy Mountain”, featuring a flute solo.

The second reading is about the parable of the ten bridesmaids: “Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour”. The Worship Choir sings “We are Waiting”.

The third reading features the visit to Mary from Gabriel, which leads into the choir singing the “Magnificat” (“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior”). There will be two females featured in the anthem entitled “A New Magnificat”, using the words of Hannah and Mary. The candles representing Mary and Gabriel are lit.

Joseph is next visited by Gabriel in the fourth reading, and the congregation will join in singing, “Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”. Joseph’s candle is lit.

We are up to the birth of Jesus in the next two readings, (5th and 6th Lessons). A very exciting anthem, “Good People, All Rejoice!” portrays this wonderful event, and then the women of the choir sing a lovely Cuban Christmas carol, “Poinsettia Carol”. The baby Jesus’ candle glows.

The shepherds arrive in the 7th lesson, and the men of the choir sing, “Hasten Now, O Shepherds”, featuring rhythm instruments and flute. The shepherds candles are set aflame. The angels do their proclaiming – filling up the skies with bright visions dancing in the 8th lesson, and the congregation sings “Angels from the Realms of Glory”. The dazzling flames shine from the angel choir candles.

We can’t leave out the story of the magi. The 9th reading from Matthew highlights their part in the story. The adorning magi candles are lit, and the Jubilee Bells play “Sing We Now of Christmas”, as we think of the carol’s text: “From the eastern country came the kings afar, bearing gifts to Bethlehem guided by a star..”

The Jubilee Bells will play once again, “Rise Up, Shepherd”, and the congregation will sing along to the closing carol, “O Come All Ye Faithful”.

St. Peter’s musicians have faithfully rehearsed many hours to provide you with a beautiful program – we hope you will attend!



Children's Ministries

By Cariann "Miss Ann" Strauch, Director of Children's Ministries



Sunday School

Miss Zoe, Sunday School Music Director & St. Olaf Intern, led some of our Sunday School students in worship in November. It's always a blessing to hear the children's sweet voices. They did a great job!



Fellowship + Faith

Are you looking for an opportunity to spend time with other parents, learn more about the gospel and discuss how Jesus's lessons can be applied to your life and your family? Join us for Fellowship + Faith each week in the Parent's Room during Sunday School!

Sunday School Hay Ride

We had a great time at our Sunday School Fall Outing!



Good Earth Village Summer 2024

Northfield Campership + 40% off Early Bird Registration on December 2nd/3rd!

Register on December 2nd/3rd here



"Register / Log In" button on the top right corner. Enter promo codes on 'My Cart' page.

Annual Sunday School Christmas Program

A Christmas Story Sing-Along



Mark your calendars! Our annual Sunday School Christmas Program will be performed on Sunday, December 17th. This year will be a sing-along and the audience will be part of the show! The children will act out the parts while the Youth Band & congregation sing them along. You don't want to miss it!

THE THREE ELCA CHURCHES IN NORTHFIELD INVITE YOU TO ATTEND CAMP TOGETHER JUNE 23-28!

St. Peter's is providing camperships of \$100 for a full week and \$50 for a half week (promo code NORTHFIELD24). Plus, Good Earth Village is opening registration a day early for the Northfield congregations on Saturday, Dec. 2 with 40% off early bird special (GEVCAMP24) good for any week but only if you register on Dec 2nd or 3rd. A description of each Camp Program can be found on the Good Earth Village website.


This Month + Next Worship Leaders

If you are unable to assist on the date assigned, please change with someone else on the list and contact the church office so that the bulletin can be updated. 507.645.8252.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Date	Time	Ushers	Reader	Communion Server	Coffee/ Kitchen	Live Stream
Dec 3	9:00 a.m.	Don + Roberta Bonrud	Julia Daly	Sheryl Kleppe Jolene Manzey Julia Daly	Dale + Linda Ness	Bill Bleckwehl
Dec 10	9:00 a.m.	Bryn Bradley Evonne Clay	Julie Klock Richard DeBeau	-	Ramona Pumper Mickey Brodin	Naomi Zeigler
Dec 17	9:00 a.m.	Janet Gilbertson Joan Paulson	Pete Pedersen	Evonne Clay Carmen Sevcik Doris Hill	Nick + Emily Paulson	Bill Bleckwehl
Dec 24	3:30 p.m.	Laura Gilligan Mary Bleckwehl	Patrick Bougie	-	-	Dennis Kenison
Dec 24	5:00 p.m.	Volunteer reader + 2 ushers needed for the 5pm service. Please contact Allie if you would like to volunteer.		-	-	-
Dec 31	9:00 a.m.	Borris + Joyce Mokoff	Carmen Sevcik	-	Phil + Joanne Olson	Naomi Zeigler
Jan 7	9:00 a.m.	Lyle + Mary Gunderson	Steve Hill	Beth Berry Julia Daly Laura Gilligan	Ginny Paulson Mary Boyum	Bill Bleckwehl
Jan 14	9:00 a.m.	David + Polly Hendee	Pete Pederson	-	Evonne Clay Marilyn Finneseth	Megan Culhane
Jan 21	9:00 a.m.	Mickey Brodin Joan Paulson	Jolene Manzey	Brian Peterson Beth Vivant Sheryl Kleppe	Don + Roberta Bonrud	TBA
Jan 28	9:00 a.m.	Mary Bleckwehl Connie Albers	Avonne Kaplan	-	Nick + Emily Paulson	TBA

December Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ALL Musicians, Readers, Candle lighter (parent representatives) for Lessons and Carols.					1 8am Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Dawn's Corner Bar) 9am LUV Quilters	2 Happy Birthday DeLora Linder
3 9am Worship with Holy Communion Lessons + Carols Rehearsal (following worship) 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School Happy Birthday Theo Peterson Nancy Snedrud	4 Happy Birthday John Ehresmann Tamara Little	5 10am Staff Meeting	6 6:30pm Advent Service Wednesday Evening Schedule 7:30 SPY Band Practice Happy Birthday Jon Rieber Paulson Nancy Solberg	7 7am Table Talk 8am BG's + MG's	8 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Katherine Olson Helen Peterson Linda Tollefson	9 2pm Christmas Tea
10 9am Lessons + Carols Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School	11 9am Eve Circle (Hideaway Vault)	12 9:30am Hannah Circle (Fellowship Hall) 10am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Rachel Circle 7pm Council Meeting Happy Birthday Mavis Bell Patricia Kenson	13 8-10am Breakfast Club Cleaners 6:30pm Advent Service Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Janet Hahn Ruth Johnson-Wirth Jeanette Johnson	14 7am Table Talk 9:30am CRC (First English Lutheran) 2pm New Spirit Circle (Fireside Room) 7pm Faith on Tap	15 8am Women's Fellowship Study (Fireside Room) 9am LUV Quilters SPY Christmas Party Happy Birthday Rylee Culhane Dale Ness Brianna Spittle	16 Happy Birthday Virginia Grant-Weiler Dawn Hutton Donna Raw Scheffert
17 9am Worship with Holy Communion + Sunday School Christmas Program 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10am SPY Christmas Party	18 Happy Birthday Kendall Sholtz	19 10am Staff Meeting	20 4pm Advent Service of Peace + Healing 6:30pm Advent Service Wednesday Evening Schedule	21 7am Table Talk 11am SOLOS (Friday Cafe)	22 9am LUV Quilters	23 Happy Birthday Ardis Koehler Chris Peterson
24 No Morning Worship No Sunday School 3:30pm + 5pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas Happy Birthday Mary Bleckwehl Drew Wiersen	26 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Lucas Strand	27 Happy Birthday Finley Kopack Ruth McCarty	28 7am Table Talk Happy Birthday Paul Erickson Susan Pedersen Gary Stein	29 9am LUV Quilters	30 Happy Birthday Mary Boyum Sandra Dockstader Ariya Suarez
31 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship (Birthday Celebration) No Sunday School	<div>  <div> Wednesday Evenings At St. Peter's 5:30pm Hand Bells Practice 6:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm SPY 7:00pm Worship Choir Practice </div> </div>					

Advent + Christmas Eve Worship

St. Peter's mid-week Advent Worship

Come, Emmanuel is the title of our Advent devotional booklet, available at the information desk.

We will gather for Advent worship on three Wednesdays.
December 6, 13, 20 – using the Holden Evening Prayer.

Our themes will be based on the O Antiphons:

December 6: O Wisdom

December 13: O Root/Branch of Jesse

December 20: O Key of David

Please join us for St. Peter's Lessons and Carols, December 10th, 9am worship:

“A Light to the Nations”

Christmas Eve Worship at St. Peter's

Sunday, December 24th

3:30pm worship service

5pm worship service

Advent Service of Peace & Healing Wednesday, December 20th | 4pm | St. Peter's

Amid the glitter and lights surrounding the holiday season, there is often an undercurrent of sorrow, despair, and sadness that can block cheer and merriment. This can be due to difficult memories, depression, or encroaching darkness with the shortest day of the year - the winter solstice, which takes place around Dec. 21. Sometimes we just need a place for quiet, lighting a candle, and sitting still to listen to beautiful music. This service is designed for just that with optional anointing for healing for oneself or others. Grief takes many shapes and sizes - this worship can begin to address such feelings as we move from darkness to light. The musical prelude will begin at 3:45 pm. and will include Richard Collman on Celtic Harp, Randall Ferguson on classical guitar, and Jane Reinhart on cello. They will also play during the time of anointing and after worship. All persons are invited to experience this solace before Christmas. Pastor David Weeks (St. Peter's Lutheran Church) and Pastor Rachel McIver Morey (United Methodist Church) will preside over the advent service. This healing service is sponsored by St. Peter's Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church and the Northfield Grief Support Coalition Community Support + Outreach.

Council Highlights

To express God's love and grace in building a community where people **believe** in God, **belong** to Christ, and **become** disciples who serve in day to day living.

Staff Reports: We are working on an overhaul of the church website. Midweek Advent worship services begin December 6th, using the Holden Evening Prayer. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday; there will be NO 9am 4th Sunday of Advent worship service. Christmas Eve worship services will be at 3:30pm + 5pm. Prayer request for our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who is taking a 4-6 month leave of absence for rest + rejuvenation. New total of enrolled Sunday School Students is 20! The Annual Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17th at 9am during worship. It will be a Christmas Story Sing Along featuring the Youth Band.

Personnel + Nominating Committee: Will be meeting the week of Nov 20th to make nominations to fill the vacancies on Church Council. Vacancies include President, Vice President, and Secretary positions. This committee also hopes to make nominations to fill vacancies within ministries teams also.

Treasurer's Report - Phil Olson: Income for October was \$13,743 - Which was below the projected budget by \$17,347. Expenses for the month of Oct were \$26,518; under the budgeted expenses by \$5,974.

Maintenance Report : Patrick Bougie and Pastor David met with Schmidt Construction to discuss the remodel of the upstairs bathrooms- they hope to begin the project early next year. Capital Construction has been hired to address the ongoing moisture issue with the bell tower. Once that problem area has been resolved, repairing/replacing the wall adjacent to the bell tower in the narthex will begin.

**ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th
- FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



ELCA

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

St. Peter's Mission Statement:
Believe. Belong. Become. To express
God's love and grace in building a
community where people believe in
God, belong to Christ and become
disciples who serve in day to day
living.

COUNCIL

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Sick? Hospitalized?
Please contact the church office if
you would like a visit from Pastor
Weeks. (507) 645.8252
or visit
www.northfieldstp.org/prayers-and-announcements

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
418 East Sumner Street
Northfield, MN 55057

*Please contact the Church Office if your
address had changed or if you would like to
be removed from our mailing list.*

(507) 645-8252

*A ministry request form can be found on our
website at www.northfieldstp.org,
under the ministry tab.*



Like us on Facebook
St. Peter's Lutheran/Northfield

Find us online
www.northfieldstp.org

Worship from the pew 9am Sundays

Worship on-line anytime, anywhere:

facebook.com/northfieldstp
www.northfieldstp.org/virtual-worship

9 DECEMBER, 2023 | 2 PM

Harp Recital and Christmas Tea

BY MADELEINE DOUAH
Harp Student

FEATURING
A selection of Christmas Tunes +
Narration

With guest pianist and clarinetist
ALAIA DOUAH

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Northfield, Minnesota

Tea, Coffee, and Seasonal Treats to Follow
Children Welcome

The poster features a dark background with a harp illustration on the right, musical notes, and a small Christmas tree at the top right.

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Update on Sarah's House - From Sheryl Kleppe

Suzanne signed the annual lease (November 2023-November 2024) of our parsonage property for use by Sarah's House as transitional housing for women coming out of drug and alcohol treatment centers. The congregation is reimbursed \$1100 per month by Sarah's House. They are responsible for all utilities. We cover the upkeep on the lawn and snow removal as per the lease.

The house can accommodate five women. There are currently three women living there. Most stay for a period of six months to a year. One of the women living there now will be leaving soon as she is in process of securing housing of her own. We purchased a new refrigerator for the house this summer as the previous one could no longer be repaired. Some thoughts to keep in mind are: Like any property, maintenance is necessary. Some of the windows have been replaced but others need replacement as funds are available. In the meanwhile, we cover those windows with plastic in the winter to conserve heat. Coffee is always needed there as the pot is on most of the day. The women don't need specialty coffee, Folgers or Maxwell House is fine. With the Christmas season approaching, the women also enjoy home baked goodies. These can be left on the table on the deck or on the front step. Notify the church that you have left things there and we will make sure the women know.

Sarah's House always welcomes donations to assist with the cost of monthly utilities. The utilities currently run about \$500 per month. If anyone wants to donate any amount to this, please write a check to Ruth's House and in the memo line write Sarah's House/Utilities. The address is: Ruth's House, PO Box 593, Faribault, MN 55021 Suzanne always tells me how grateful they are for our willingness to participate in this ministry. They love the house, its layout works wonderfully for their purposes, and our generosity is commendable. I would echo that. What a wonderful outreach ministry this is! Thank you!

